





## JORDAN TIMES

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### A timely warning

NOTHING COULD be timelier than Jordan's fresh warning to the world community on Monday about Israel's aggressive actions in the occupied Arab territories. Coming as it does on the eve of the renewed Egyptian-Israeli talks at Camp David, the Jordanian statement serves three useful purposes: it reminds the world that Israel has been stepping up its provocations in the occupied lands even while the Camp David process has been playing itself out; it demonstrates once again Jordan's firm resolve not to be pressured into yielding to appeals, particularly from Washington, that this country should somehow abandon all its sacred principles and take a role in the Camp David tragedy; and it underscores His Majesty King Hussein's wise suggestion that an alternative approach to Middle East peace must be sought through a multi-party formula involving the United Nations.

Israel's provocations have recently reached the level of the intolerable. The state-run radio recently confirmed what we reported months ago: that a government committee in Israel has been formulating plans for sharply limiting the definition of any plan for Palestinian "self-rule" that might emerge from Camp David: the aims are to ensure that an actual Palestinian state is never created, that Jewish settlement can continue unhindered, that the expansion of the Arab population is sharply curtailed, and that the "self-rule" authorities are totally emasculated. Accompanying the exposure of this outrageous "autonomy" plan have come General Ariel Sharon's fatuous plans for a future "metropolitan Jerusalem" with a Jewish population of one million.

It is almost as if Israel, already increasingly isolated by the events in Iran and by the new Iranian government's welcome commitment to the Arab cause, deliberately hopes to scuttle the treaty talks with Egypt. The Egyptian side, to its credit—and no doubt sensing Israel's discomfiture—is sticking to a hard line on linking the treaty with real progress on the Palestinian issue. This now looks like an empty prospect: neither side seems to expect much progress from Camp David Two, and both appear to be looking to the U.S. for a fresh initiative.

Soon, then, we may be rid of the flimsy Camp David apparatus altogether. The danger is, with the Iranian aftermath, that Israel now thinks it has a strong card to play with Washington in appealing for more American protection. We hope that U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown picked up enough signals on his recent swing through the Middle East to point to the dangers of such a course.

For our part, meanwhile, we have more justification than ever for staying out of the whole sordid Camp David affair: the initiative rests more and more with Arab interests, and we appear to have a strong new element, the Iranian element, on our side.

### ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Under the heading "A Travesty of Negotiations" AL RA'I Tuesday editorially says that resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli bilateral talks is a most painful thing to Arab feelings in the present stage as if nothing was happening in the Middle East scene. This intended disregard is being translated by Israel into a fierce settlement onslaught, expulsion of Arab inhabitants, confiscation of Arab property and arrest of Arab religious leaders.

The Israelis, the newspaper adds, appear to be trying to stop the "wheel of history and impose on it their own will aided by the force of American arms."

On the other hand there is the Egyptian side's headlong dashing towards signing a unilateral agreement in a precipitous endeavour to play its role in the area side by side with Israel against wishes of the Arab nation and aspirations of the Palestinian people, AL RA'I says.

It says Jordan's new movement, announced by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim, is meant to awaken the world conscience and prod the Arabs to enlist all their energies and potentialities to face the Zionist challenges and violations in the Arab occupied areas that are pushing the area, step by step, towards ruin and destruction.

Under the heading "The Camp David Road is impassable" AL DUSTOUR says a snow storm blowing on the eastern parts of the United States has blocked the road to Camp David, making it extremely dangerous to reach there.

However, the road to Camp David was shut before it was closed with snow; and it may not become passable for any just and comprehensive settlement to pass through "because Israeli intentions are impenetrable."

With the Egyptian and Israeli viewpoints perplexingly opposed to each other, the newspaper thinks the chances of success for Egypt, the U.S. and Israel are very slim, and that their meeting will be a waste of time, as the French president has recently hinted.

### TARMAC SHAHIN JOINT VENTURE AQABA

To Sri Lankans Thumbowla Arachchige Wimalasena, Gama Athirallalage Premaratne, Epitakaduwa Gamage Nambuwasam Ariyadasa: You are requested to return to work in Aqaba within three days of this notice, otherwise your service agreement will be considered terminated and we will no longer accept responsibility for you.

### Letter from Cairo

### Egyptians want peace, and will get it somehow

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the second in a series of irregular contributions by former Jordan Times Staff Writer Ian Kellas, who recently left Jordan to return to Britain via Egypt.

CAIRO — "Fundamentally, you see, the Arab-Israeli conflict is just a side show," the owner of a ramshackle Cairo hotel said as he wiped clean a pair of heavy rimmed spectacles. "Peace treaty?" he went on. "I have no idea if they will sign one or not. It makes no difference. We already have peace." The United States, he explained, has both sides in its pocket and, especially after the events in Iran, is not going to allow another Egyptian-Israeli war.

It is hard to doubt that the Egyptians want peace. "I will be the first one to visit Tel Aviv when they let us," declared Ahmad, manager of a little shop in the old bazaar in Cairo. "This hostility is just a political thing. What do I have against the Israelis?"

Discussing the matter with a medical student from Alexandria as we dangled our feet over the edge of a boat in the middle of Lake Nasser while the sun melted into a spectacular spread of orange water, I suggested that the Arab-Israeli conflict seemed rather more remote here than it does in Amman. "Oh no," he cut in. "There is not one family in Egypt which has not lost a son or a father in the thirty years of war with Israel. In my family two have been killed."

But was he not concerned that by pursuing his own particular approach to peace, Sadat was cutting Egypt off from the rest of the Arab countries? Could Egypt get along on its own? "No," Youssef replied. "we will always depend on the other Arabs and they will always rely on us." But then he launched into a theme which I heard often: Egypt has made enormous sacrifices for the Arab cause and has got almost nothing in return. So the other Arabs have only themselves to blame if Egypt now looks elsewhere for help.

Nor are Palestinians conspicuously popular in Egypt. According to Youssef, a petroleum engineer with work in the Red Sea, this is because the Palestinians are responsible for the Arab-Israeli conflict. They are generally seen as being unreasonably hardline. But the Youssef admitted that there could be no peace if the Israelis continued to occupy the West Bank.

What about Arab solidarity? "There is no Arab nation," one man said. "There are Arab peoples." Another—who was unemployed—gave me a lecture lasting nearly two hours about how Egyptians are the only people in the region who really know how to work and have brains. Egypt helped all its Arab neighbours, but now that they are rich they have given almost no aid in return.

Anyway, I kept hearing, the Egyptians are not Arabs. They are the descendants of the people who built the great temples and the pyramids.

This was a line ably expounded to me by—among others—Mohammad, a teenager from near Cairo, who made his entrance through the window.

That, it seems, is a fairly normal way of boarding a train in Egypt, but it took me a little by surprise. Getting on at a small station before Aswan, I anticipated that the main Cairo train would be full, and so took second class and was quick to bag my seat. But I was careless enough to leave the window a few inches ajar. Before the train had even drawn to a halt in Aswan, no fewer than four persons and several suitcases had landed on top of me. There was then a rather vicious fight for a bit, and everyone got very heated. That turned into a sing-song and everyone got even more heated. By the time things had cooled down (it was a 17-hour journey), it was clear that there were about three layers of passengers over every inch of the carriage—including the people in the luggage rack and the vendors who got on at every station and did amazing traverses over the crush of bodies with trays of merchandise balanced on their heads. As if there were any need to be awakened next morning, we had a loud-voiced cockerel on board as well. He seemed to be part of a small farm that was apparently being transported up the line.

It seemed to me at the time that the railway was rather less a testimony to the special Egyptian genius which Mohammad described than to the urgent need for peace in the country. Peace or at least a bit more money. Coming from Jordan—not the richest of countries in the region—I was still struck by the poverty in Egypt. And also by an air of decay. It may very well be a deceptive air. But the rag-tattle army that is put on public display in Egypt, for instance, did not fill me with much confidence.

It is not surprising that people seem to have an almost unquestioning faith in peace. In three weeks of travel in Egypt I did not meet one person who thought that President Sadat's peace initiative was a bad thing. The general attitude seemed to be that Egypt wanted peace badly and so would eventually get it even if the Israelis didn't want it. But not many people were very clear on how that would happen.

There seemed to be a hint of wishful thinking in the banners spread across all the streets in Aswan (I arrived there a couple of days after the Shah and bumped into Gerald Ford) in honour of the President's visit. "Hail to Al Sadat," they read, "champion of war and of peace."

In Mersa Matruh on the Mediterranean coast, the nearest sizable town to the Libyan border, the street banners had a slightly different message—something to the effect of: "May our brother soldiers be victorious." They reminded me of my conversation with the Cairo hotel owner.

Most people told me that President Sadat was very good. "Nasser, he was crazy, crazy," one man selling Egyptian "anti-ques" declared. Lots of people said that the Russians were no good, and they usually added that they did not believe in God.

The enthusiasm for Mr. Sadat seemed sincere enough. And it occurred to me—rather unoriginally—after seeing scores of colossal pharaonic statues, that the Egyptians, unlike many other people, probably prefer to admire their leaders. But there were also some middle class people I came across who were more critical.

One admitted that Sadat was greatly preferable to Nasser, but then added that he was losing his common touch. He had taken to his using a helicopter rather than walking as he used to. And instead of insisting on his humble origins, he was now vying to be "world's best dressed man". Sadat thought he was playing a role on the world stage, but in fact he was just being manipulated by the Americans.

Another I asked about the New Wafd party. At first he did not understand the question. Then he said leaning conspiratorially close in the coffee shop: "The party had one million members and it would have won the next election, if it had not been crushed. But I don't like to discuss politics in this place. You never know who is listening."

### WHAT'S GOING ON

Photo Documentary Exhibit

The French Cultural Centre has a documentary exhibition on display about Georges Sand. Open during regular hours.

Photo Exhibit

The Soviet Cultural Centre presents a photo display commemorating the sixty-first anniversary of the establishment of the Soviet armed forces.

Painting Exhibit

The British Council presents an exhibition of paintings and sculpture entitled "Portraits from the Jordanian Environment" by Sabahat Ortac Rashdan. Open during regular hours.

German Film

The Goethe Institute presents part II of a film by Peter Beauvais entitled "Deutschstunde" at 8:00 p.m.

### Envoys to seek condemnation of Israeli settlement policy

AMMAN, Feb. 20 (JNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent memos to Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr. Hazem Nuseibeh, and Jordan's diplomatic missions abroad spelling out the government's position on the Israeli policy of establishing more settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

The ministry asked Jordan's ambassadors to convey this position to countries to which they are accredited as a first step to securing the condemnation of and putting an end to this policy. The Jordanian government will follow this up with other measures at the international level and at the United Nations.

### New British ambassador calls on Hassan Ibrahim

AMMAN, Feb. 20 (JNA)—The new British Ambassador to Jordan Mr. Alan Bedford Urwick today called on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim and handed him a copy of credentials.

During the meeting Mr. Ibrahim briefed Mr. Urwick on Jordan's attitude towards Israel's plan to carry out changes in the character of occupied Arab territories through the establishment of Israeli settlements on Arab land. He asked the ambassador to convey Jordan's concern over this policy to the British government. The meeting was attended by the British charge d'affaires in Amman.

Mr. Urwick arrived here last night to take up his new position. He succeeds Mr. John C. Moberly who has been transferred to another post.

### Proposed West Bank press union condemned

AMMAN, Feb. 20 (JNA)—The Jordan Press Association today condemned attempts by a number of West Bank journalists to form a press association in the Israeli occupied territories.

A statement issued in Amman today said that the proposed association is to be set up under a permit by the Israeli Interior Ministry—a step which extends the ministry's authority over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. "This in itself is a very dangerous phenomenon," the statement added.

"The proposed association is an underhanded attempt which serves Israeli plans to create institutions in the occupied territories connected with the Israeli authorities but operating behind an Arab facade," the statement said.

The Jordan Press Association warned Arab journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against joining the "Israeli manipulated association" and called on those who have joined the association to withdraw from it and to expose its "suspicious motives."

### Jordan Times reporter arrives in Iran

AMMAN, Feb. 20 (J.T.)—After an abortive attempt last Saturday and then placed on standby for three days, Jordan Times reporter Fernando Francis arrived in Tehran today aboard an Arab Wings chartered jet.

An official spokesman for the air charter service told the Jordan Times "your correspondent arrived safe and sound at Tehran airport at 3:15 p.m. Amman time."

Also on the flight were reporters Nasr Majali of Jordan Times' sister publication Al Ra'i, Ahmad Dabbas of Al Dustour and a reporter of the New York Times.

Except on rare occasions, Arab Wings has been ferrying international correspondents and video tape in and out of Tehran daily.

## ECONOSCOPE

### Action must be taken to control inflation now

By Jawad Ahmad

Inflation is an evil, however viewed. It is so because its net effect on the socio-economic system is negative. Despite some gains which may accrue to some inflation-rich people, the loss to the rest of the population is far greater.

The danger of inflation in the less developed countries (LDCs) is aggravated further by the maldistribution of income which usually exists at the beginning of an inflationary cycle. The distribution worsens, and gloomy expectations follow.

It is always said that inflation is the price which society pays in order to improve the unemployment situation. This is usually the case under normal conditions. However, what happened in most European, American and Third World countries during the 1974-77 period does not support this allegation. Societies can suffer from both inflation and unemployment simultaneously.

Jordan was successful, to some degree, in curbing inflation in 1978. According to official sources, the cost of living index jumped by seven per cent only last year.

It is, however, difficult to envisage the same performance during 1979. There are early signs which may push the cost of living index up by more than ten per cent, if not 15 per cent. The situation can worsen unless action is taken immediately to deal with the situation.

Among these signs is the increase, actual and expected, in the international price of certain key commodities. For instance, the prices of iron and copper and cement have already risen, while the prices of oil and other petro-chemical products

are expected to increase at faster rates. Imports of these commodities, and the cost inside Jordan is already felt.

Another sign is the expected increase of shipping if oil prices rise as steeply as they have. Since Jordan's imports are large and are expected to exceed JD 500 million in 1979, an idea about the transportation bill cannot naturally be expected that the price of oil will go up, causing further increase in the cost of domestic transportation and produced commodities. Moreover, as a result of construction is expected to increase in 1978 over 1977.

On the demand side, the money supply increased in 1978 over 1977. Given the money-price relation, the money supply of 1978 will make itself felt this year. Liquidity in the system cannot remain low.

Moreover, the increase in government expenditures this year will add pressure on demand, giving prices a boost.

The obvious solution to this situation is to siphon off liquidity from the system. This can be done by improving the tax levy, and the availability of credit to non-productive sectors, and imposing better demand management policies. Bank-created money, restrained by higher reserve ratios and lending to the government. On the fiscal side, government must limit its non-productive disbursements and be careful in its capital expenditures.

There is evidence that the government is aware of all these things. Let us hope that its policy be commensurate with this awareness.



Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi (centre) opens in Amman Tuesday a three-day

meeting of a sub-committee formed by gov of Arab central banks.

### Arab central banks subcommittee opens meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 20 (JNA)—Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi opened here today a three-day meeting of the technical subcommittee formed by the governors of Arab central banks to discuss ways of developing and integrating Arab capital markets. The participants will be discussing facilities for the transfer of capital among Arab states to help development projects

in the Arab World and the establishing system by which Arab states will be able to loans from Arab financial markets instead of borrowing from the international market. Representatives in the sub-committee are Hashem Al Sabbagh, director of the Financial Market (stock exchange), and Adnan Al Hindi, head of the research department at the Central Bank.



Public Security Director Maj. Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat opens a training course Tuesday at Zarqa Police Training Academy.

### Training course begins for Saudi policemen

AMMAN, Feb. 20 (JNA)—General Security Director Maj. Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat today opened the second training course for Saudi Arabian border police at Zarqa Police Training Academy. Trainees study and train in all practical subjects relating to airports, border posts, residence per-

mits and foreigners in addition to other theoretical subjects such as religious education and language during the course which lasts for a half. The opening was also attended by Saudi ambassador to Jordan, the director of planning and development and the head of the academy.



Notes concerning cooperation between Jordan and West Germany in the field of sports are signed by Mr. Mustafa Al Hassan, Director General of the Youth and Sports Organization and Dr. Hans Schmidt-Dornedden, West German Ambassador to Jordan.

سكنا من الاردن







# Pirating unstoppable

By Cait Franklin

LONDON—The pirates of the record industry—and millions of people with cassette recorders who would rather pilfer their music than pay for it—have won another round.

The best scientific brains in the record business last month admitted defeat in a two-year search for a "spoiler signal" that would stop home taping.

The British Phonographic Industry Ltd, an organisation financed by the record companies, lost the latest battle—but won't concede the war.

"The research was quite revolutionary," laments BPI's director-general Geoffrey Bridge. "Unfortunately it turned out to be a dead duck."

The plan was to put a signal on records which would be inaudible when the disc was played but would become a disturbing noise when the contents of the record were transferred to a cassette tape.

"It's a terribly difficult thing," says Mr. Bridge. "You can put a signal on but it's just as easy to take it off again. All that's needed is a little gadget for about £10 or less to wipe out the signal."

"It's rather like ballistics—you have a missile and someone invents an anti-missile and then an anti-anti-missile..."

For BPI's research team at the University of Southampton, the first problem was finding a signal which would not offend the sensitive ears of record buyers. About a quarter of the volunteers who took part in the team's listening tests could hear the signal when a record was played.

"All those who could hear the signal were under 30 and had acute hearing," Mr. Bridge says. "The researchers thought that if they spent a lot more money they might be able to lower that to five per cent of the listeners or even one per cent—but even that would not have been acceptable."

The British recording industry has failed in an attempt to use electronics to stop records being taped. Although it has a number of legal weapons, home taping is claimed to cost the industry £75m a year.

"One young man who took part in the tests nearly went through the ceiling—it was agonising for him."

A person with good hearing who spends £5 on a record album with a signal is, Mr. Bridge concedes, "going to go raving mad." Not to mention the effect on the family dog.

Those two fruitless years of research cost BPI about £17,000, but that was a bargain compared to the amount of money the industry is losing to home taping.

Just how much in record sales is being siphoned off onto cassette tapes is hard to calculate. Not every one of the 500bn home taping sessions in Britain last year meant a lost sale for a record shop, as tape manufacturers are eager to point out.

Henry Pattinson of the BASF company stressed in a recent speech that record industry losses were "absolutely hypothetical... It's money that was never spent and there is no way of knowing if it ever would have been."

But surveys done by the British Market Research Bureau back up Mr. Bridge's gloomy prophecies.

Home taping, he wrote in BPI's 1978 yearbook, is costing the record industry £75m a year—far worse than our previous most pessimistic fears. That sum represents about a quarter of the industry's turnover. Home taping, Mr. Bridge foresees, could bring the record market in the U.K. to a standstill in the next few years.

The industry is fighting back on several fronts, spending about £200,000 a year to combat piracy and two other exotically-named plagues on its profits, counterfeiting and bootlegging.

(Piracy is the illegal duplicating of an existing recording, bootlegging is recording a live performance without permission and selling the product, and counterfeiting is packaging the pirated recording to make it look as much like the original as possible.)

Counterfeiting is the menace of the future, Mr. Bridge says. It is also extremely profitable for its practitioners. Anyone who can afford recording equipment, tapes and tape cases and can find a colour copier to reproduce the cassette cards can peddle his product to markets or shops where no one asks questions. Counterfeits are sold at close to the regular cassette price so as not to arouse suspicion. After the initial investment, profits are about 100 per cent.

The big hits, like "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever", are being copied all around the world. But as the counterfeiting business mushrooms it runs a growing risk of encountering BPI's full-time detective and legal squad, whose members prowling markets and pursue record magazines for evidence, than make court-sanctioned swoops on their suspects. That translates into about 100 court cases a year, almost all of them civil, and most undefended.

Counterfeiting is a global scourge on the record industry, and BPI and its counterparts in other countries respond with worldwide action. The IFPI (International Federation of the Producers of Phonograms and Videograms), of which BPI is a member, has its own anti-piracy squad, based in London, which co-ordinates international search-and-confiscate missions.

In some ways the IFPI is the music industry's Interpol, but its battles are mainly legal—to tighten copyright laws in countries where they are weak or nonexistent.

BPI, flummoxed in its latest scientific skirmish against the forces of evil, has also turned to legal tactics. It is seeking to have a tax imposed on the sale of recording equipment and blank tapes. Profits would go to everyone who loses money to the pirates: composers, performers, publishers, artists, record producers and, of course, the record companies.

"To recompense us fully the levy would have to be 200 per cent," Mr. Bridge says. "We'd never get that." He is doubtful if they will even get the levy. "It must be the government's priority number one thousand and fourteen."

Meanwhile, it's back to the laboratory. Someone has come up with another bright idea to foil pirates on the technological front, which BPI is asking record company researchers to look into.

"I don't want to talk about it," Mr. Bridge says, "but we'll grasp at any straw."

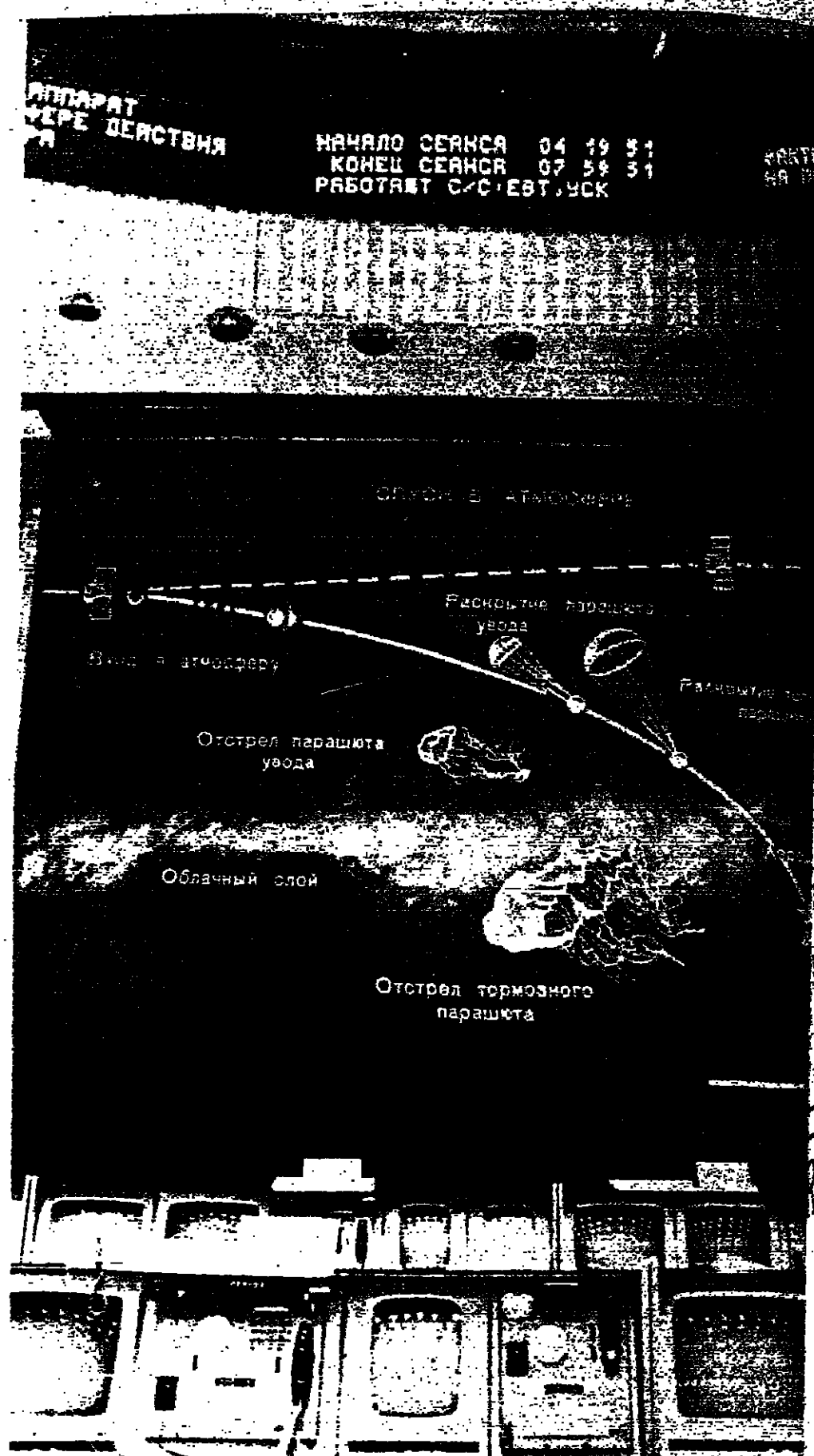
Fervent home taping Tony Eaton of London has little sympathy for the plight of the recording industry. "One of their big public relations problems is that the companies that are complaining are all very rich," he says. "The police don't have time for them—and rightly so. If it's pirate tapes or rape, they're going to go for the rape."

Tony is pleased with the quality of the hundreds of tapes he has pirated in the privacy of his own home. "The average equipment being sold today is more than good enough to make it worthwhile for all but true hi-fi enthusiasts to tape from records," he says. "But somebody at some stage still has to buy the record."

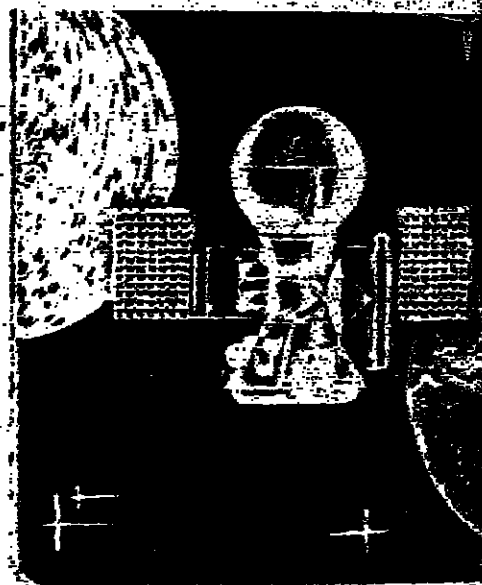
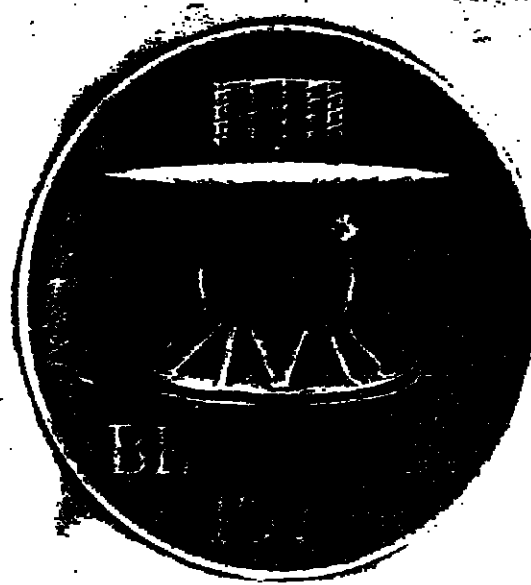
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# Soviet space exploration takes another step

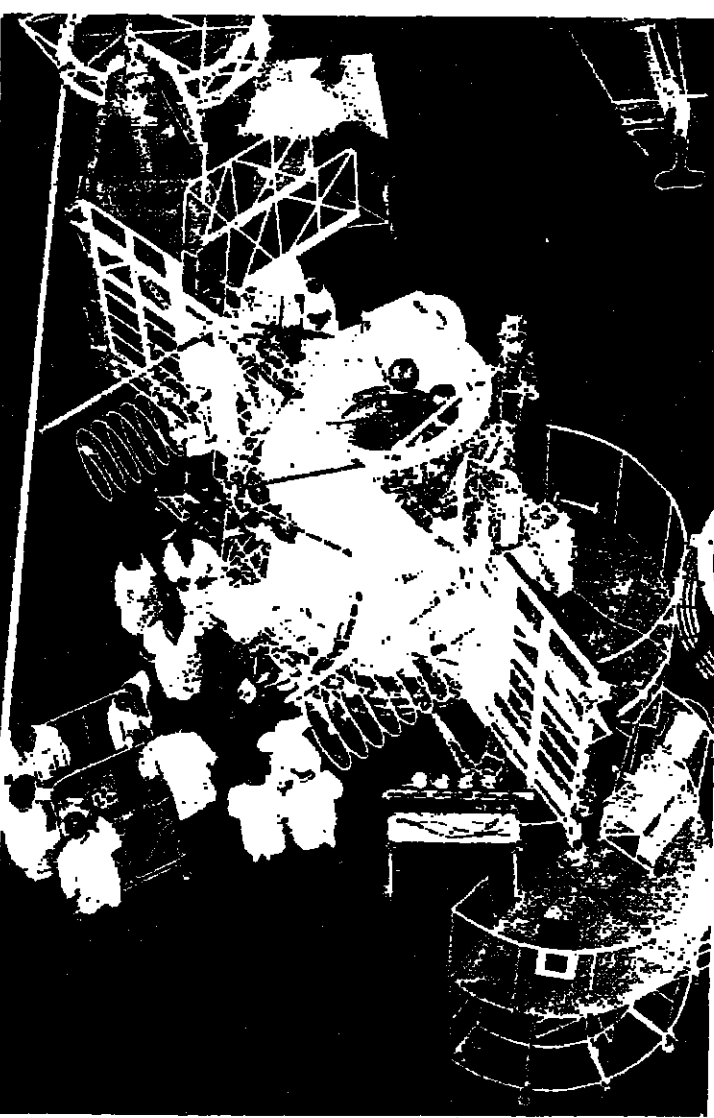
MOSCOW—Another step in the exploration of Venus has been made by Soviet science and technology. On December 21, 1978 the "Venera-12" a 98 day intraplanetary probe covered a distance of over 240 million kilometres and reached the vicinity of the planet. The landing craft landed softly and for 110 minutes has been broadcasting scientific information from the planet's surface. The "Venera-12" probe flew past the planet Venus at 35 thousand kilometres and continued its flight in space. The "Venera-11" automatic station, analogous in design and purpose to the "Venera-12" station, reached the vicinity of planet Venus on December 25 and its landing craft softlanded on the Venus surface some 800 kilometres from the landing site of the "Venera-12" landing craft. The information from the landing craft was received and transmitted to Earth by the "Venera-11" automatic station, flying past the planet. After leaving the radio contact zone and the conclusion of information reception from the "Venera-11" landing craft, the "Venera-11" automatic station continues its flight along the heliocentric orbit. Aboard the both stations there are emblems with a bas-relief of Vladimir Lenin, and the landing craft carried a state emblem, depicting the USSR Coat-of-Arms. During the future flight of the two Soviet interplanetary automatic stations it is planned to continue the scientific measurements and investigations, begun on the Earth-Venus route. For recent years Soviet stations have brought much news about Venus. Beginning from 1967, when "Venera-4" station for the first time ever transmitted the results of direct measurements of the planet's atmospheric pressure and temperature, nine more Soviet automatic stations have descended in its atmosphere. By studying Venus, people obtain information directly related to Earth. (TASS)



The flight control centre for the "Venera 11" landing craft.



These emblems were carried aboard the "Venera 11".



The assembly of the "Venera" intraplanetary station.

## Watch for Smartie!

A tiny submarine called Smartie is to be stationed in the Middle East to keep an eye on pipelines and oil platforms. It arrives as the result of an agreement between the developers, Marine Unit of Richmond, London, and Consolidated Contractors Company (Underwater Engineering) - CCC, whose main base of operations is Abu Dhabi. CCC will run an inspection service, using Smartie, which will be operated by Marine Unit people. Smartie stands for submarine automatic remote television inspection equipment, and its makers say it is a completely new type of micro-computer-controlled unmanned inspection system. It was built to work in the poor visibility and hostile conditions of the North Sea. Elliptical in cross-section, it has a battery of television cameras with at least one low-light silicon-intensified-target camera and a high-resolution vidicon camera. Smartie has no propeller but is driven by an electric pump. It carries its own computer, making it more powerful and versatile than anything in the past and scoring a first for Marine Unit: the first time a micro-computer has been installed on such an underwater vehicle. This not only interprets control signals from the operator and controls speed and direction, but also makes the submarine easier to operate. Even when the vessel is passing through an area of zero visibility, it can, in a sense, still see: the computer accepts information from the magnetic compass and gyro and projects an artificial information "target". And if it is in a strong current it can compensate, and hold itself still. The cable that controls it is less than half a centimetre thick. This carries all the operator's instructions, and feeds back the video signal to his screen. The makers point out that most unmanned submarines have bulky, multi-core cables which affect performance. Smartie is not for sale at present: Marine Unit will use it to offer a complete inspection service to the offshore industry. One is to be kept available for use anywhere in the world. It would be flown to wherever there was an underwater emergency, together with a generator, operator's console, cable—and three operators. Another will be available for long-term contracts with a winch and launcher to withstand rough seas. Two units will be available by the end of July, with more to follow, all made in Marine Unit Group's new factory in Plymouth, southern England. The chairman of the group, Mr. Cy Corder, describes Smartie as a realistic low-cost alternative to the diver, even in shallow water. "Its operator actually sees more on his screen than the diver sees on the sea-bed," he said. "And it can operate in more hazardous conditions than a diver can." (LPS)

# AMMAN MARKET PLACE

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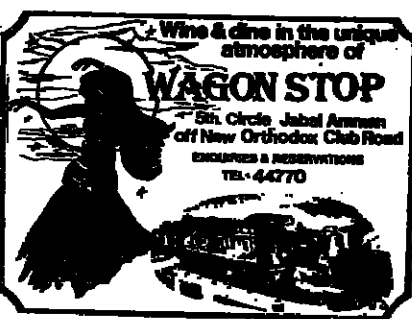
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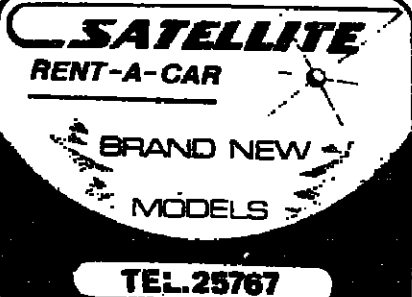
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# Afghanistan denies blame for death of U.S. ambassador

KABUL, Feb. 20 (R)—Afghan Foreign Minister Hafizullah Amin yesterday categorically rejected suggestions that his government was to blame for the death of American Ambassador Adolph Dubs in a kidnap drama in Kabul last week.

He said he considered an American protest over their handling of the incident to be completely baseless.

Mr. Amin went into considerable detail with his first public statement on the incident. Mr. Dubs, a 58-year-old career diplomat, was cut down in a hail of gunfire when Afghan security forces stormed the hotel room where he was being held by four armed kidnappers.

The minister said he hoped it

would not adversely affect U.S.-Afghan relations but at the same time he was strongly critical of the American version of events.

Mr. Amin said the Afghan Government had taken every possible measure to save Mr. Dubs' life and all their efforts had been directed at freeing him unharmed.

Mr. Amin said that as deputy prime minister he had been given progress reports throughout the drama at the Kabul hotel and

angrily rejected charges that he was unavailable to embassy officials making frantic efforts to reach him.

"I categorically reject that I was not available," he said. "What do they mean by saying I was unavailable? Since my deputies were available it means I was available. There is no question in that regard."

Mr. Amin said he had been at the House of the People, the palace of former Afghan rulers which is close to the Kabul hotel, and later at the Defence and Interior Ministries. No attempt was made to reach him up to 12.15 p.m., he said. The ambassador died about 35 minutes later.

Embassy officials here say that one of their officers was turned away from the gates of the House of the People when he went there in search of the foreign minister after repeated attempts to contact him on the phone. They were trying to relay a personal appeal from Secretary of State Cyrus Vance that no precipitate action should be taken that could endanger the ambassador's life.

## Guerrilla mortar-fire hits Salisbury airport

SALISBURY, Feb. 20 (R)—Black nationalist guerrillas blasted Salisbury International Airport with mortar fire late last night but caused no casualties or damage, military headquarters announced today.

Informed sources said the guerrillas, in their third attack on a major economic installation at the capital in two months, lobbed about 12 shells at the airport. Rhodesian Radio said the attack was believed to have been aimed at the civilian section of the airport.

The guerrillas, under cover of heavy rain, evidently approached to within a mile of the passenger complex and fired from near the end of the main runway, airport sources said. It was not clear where the mortar bombs landed. Reporters saw no craters in the airport grounds early today.

Guerrillas have attacked three major installations in or near Salisbury—a fuel storage depot, the main power station and now the airport. This was the first time in the six-year-old war that the airport had been attacked.

## Gunmen murder owner of Istanbul newspaper

ANKARA, Feb. 20 (R)—Gunmen in Istanbul shot dead the right-wing owner of a local newspaper, police said today.

Lerdogan Hancerioglu, a former official of the extreme right-wing nationalist movement party (NMP) was killed in his car yesterday, they said.

Anonymous calls to Istanbul newspapers said Mr. Hancerioglu had been condemned to death "for his fascist activities."

Nine people were injured in 29 explosions in Turkey yesterday, including two students in the southern town of Adana who were seriously hurt by a bomb they had made, police said.

Eight blasts in Istanbul yesterday were thought to be connected with leftist demonstrations commemorating the seventh anniversary of the death of a left-wing guerrilla leader.

Turkish Premier Bulent Ecevit said yesterday violence in Turkey had a ten-year history and it was impossible to stop it in two months of martial law.

More than 1,000 Turks were killed in political fighting in 1978. Martial law was imposed in 13 provinces last December. Mr. Ecevit said last week that, if parliament approved, it would be extended in those provinces for two months beyond its expiry date of Feb. 26.

# Winds of change for Portugal's labour movement?

The new Portuguese trade union organisation formed to contest the Communist grip on the labour movement has had remarkable success in its first four months. But the opposition is powerful, and the UGT's existence is still fragile.

By Jimmy Burns

Lisbon has a tendency to retain on its walls the fading slogans and tattered posters of yesterday, perhaps as a reminder of a more energetic political past. It was thus with some surprise that Lisbonites woke up one morning early last autumn to find the same walls covered by hundreds of crisp new posters with a quality and a message rarely seen in the four years since the revolution.

"Join the UGT" was the simple inscription, spelt out in bold white type over picture of two arms joined by a handshake.

Exactly who or what the UGT was, few Lisbonites really knew then. Some of them may have recalled that the formation of a new trade union had been announced some days before by a small group of nondescript office workers in one of Lisbon's more sordid cinemas.

Recently the UGT, or General Union of Workers, held its first

Congress in Oporto, the capital of northern Portugal.

The congress was attended by nearly 1,000 delegates, including representatives from most of the major European trade unions, and the leaders of Portugal's main political parties, with the exception of the Communist Party.

The meteoric rise of the UGT during the last four months is undoubtedly one of the more fascinating developments in Portugal's recent political life. Whether the strength of this non-Communist trade union grouping, the first to seriously threaten the Communist Party's control of the Portuguese labour movement since the revolution, is more apparent than real has become a subject for stormy public debate and for no small measure of international interest.

The creation of non-Communist trade unions became a matter for increasing concern for a wide political spectrum in Portugal once the Communist-

controlled General Confederation of Workers (CGT-Intersindical) appropriated both the structures and influence of the old "sindicatos". These had been one of the main props of the Salazarist corporate state until their power was gradually eroded in the last years of the half century dictatorship.

As the regime crumbled, Communist leaders were at the forefront of industrial action. When a left-wing military coup finally succeeded in April 1974, the same union leaders joined hands with the soldiers and demanded compensation for their effort. Recognition of Intersindical as Portugal's main trade union body was enacted in a law within the year.

Significantly, though, the law did not define Intersindical as the only trade union organisation to which each individual union should affiliate. An important article specified that no closed shop could be imposed, and the decision of whether or not to affiliate was left up to each union.

These loopholes in the law of "unicidade" had precisely the effect that the Communist Party had feared: it strengthened those forces in individual unions likely to be opposed to any centralised body dominated by the party. Equally, it encouraged the resolve of Portugal's recently created political parties to make their first inroads into the Portuguese labour movement.

Consensus has hardly been the dominating note of Portuguese policies in the last three years, and

the lack of agreement among the non-Communist political parties has undoubtedly been the single most important factor acting against a more speedy creation of a viable alternative trade union organisation.

The first attempt by the Socialists to establish a "democratic" trade union body late in 1977, for example, was stillborn following a row at union level with the influential Social Democrat Party (PSD). At that time neither the PSD nor the Christian Democrats could believe that the Socialists were really prepared to pull away from their previous flirtations with Intersindical.

Against this background it is easier to understand where the significance of UGT really lies. The trade union organisation is the brainchild of former Socialist Labour Minister Maldonado Gonet, who has consistently argued within his party against a "go-it-alone" attitude regarding union matters. In the light of previous failures, Mr. Gonet formed the opinion more than a year ago that no alternative to the Communist domination of the labour movement could survive unless it cut across party lines and incorporated Portuguese workers under a common "democratic" banner.

Mr. Gonet is now convinced that this has been achieved. The UGT was officially founded in October as a predominantly Socialist trade union. It has taken four months for Mr. Gonet to draw both the Social Democrats and Christian Democrats into a more open collaboration. The alliance was symbolised by the presence at the recent congress of Socialist leader Mario Soares and his political rival, Social Democrat leader Francisco Sa Carneiro.

Not so clear, however, is whether, having laid the basis for a new cooperation among the political parties, the UGT will now build itself into a sufficiently strong force to counterbalance Intersindical. UGT union leaders claim that their organisation now encompasses over 40 individual

unions which together represent some 450,000 workers. In addition they claim that since October another 250,000 workers have joined UGT in an individual capacity.

Intersindical, however, still maintains its control over 120 unions which together represent 1.6 million workers, out of an estimated total workforce of 3.4 million.

The essential difference between the two rival trade unions remains one of quality rather than quantity. UGT influence has so far been restricted to the white collar unions. It has failed to penetrate the powerful industrial unions.

Indications are that the UGT will not find the going easy. Moulded by the experience of revolution, the Portuguese industrial worker has arguably achieved a greater degree of political awareness than most of his European counterparts. Now, with unemployment rising and real wages falling as a consequence of the government's stabilisation programme, he is being asked to join a moderate trade union organisation that is publicly committed to getting the Portuguese worker off the street and back around the negotiating table.

The UGT also has to face the well-organised propaganda machine of the Portuguese Communist Party. Accusations that the UGT is being flooded with "imperialist" money from such organisations as the CIA and the Portuguese Confederation of Employers is not lost on deaf ears and is creating a psychological barrier which will not be easily broken down.

Finally, given the unpredictable course of Portuguese politics, it is anybody's guess as to how long Mr. Gonet's "grand alliance" will last. With a general election due in a year from now, the nagging suspicion exists that the ambitions of politicians could one day tear apart the UGT as easily as they once put it together.

Financial Times  
News-Features

## Test begins for Chad's ceasefire agreement

N'DJAMENA, Feb. 20 (R)—A ceasefire between the rival armies of Chad President Felix Malloum and rebel Prime Minister Hissene Habre faced its first test today.

They signed an agreement yesterday after a week of bloody fighting which cost over 500 dead in the capital of this central African country.

Appeals immediately went out to the population to return to work but doubts remained about how long the ceasefire would hold. N'Djamena's streets were almost deserted last night and echoed with occasional gunshots. Cars flew white flags.

The commander of French forces in Chad helped negotiate the terms of the ceasefire under which the two sides agreed to observe their present positions.

General Malloum's forces hold the administrative zone of the capital with the rest mostly in

the hands of supporters of Mr. Habre.

A ceasefire committee has been set up composed of representatives of both sides and of the French forces sent to Chad last year to help General Malloum fighting Libyan-backed Frolinat guerrillas.

Sudan has also been involved in efforts to halt the clashes in N'Djamena which started when Mr. Habre's forces tried to oust the president.

A member of the Sudanese delegation said the ceasefire committee was only provisional and that other measures were needed to finally solve Chad's ethnic and religious problems.

He was thought to be referring to a planned summit in Khartoum between the government and its opponents including Frolinat.

Well-informed sources in Paris said yesterday that Frolinat had taken advantage of the fighting in the capital to recapture the central Chad town of Arada.

## Blizzard leaves U.S. reeling

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (R)—International airports at New York and Washington struggled to reopen today after one of the worst blizzards in memory and Baltimore was under curfew following an outbreak of looting.

Wintry blizzards swept northeast America yesterday burying the nation's capital under snow drifts up to 2.75 metres deep and closing the six airports serving Washington and New York.

All bus and underground train

services in Washington were halted as about 58 centimetres of snow fell in 18 hours, adding to 15 centimetres already on the ground.

But it was a public holiday to mark George Washington's birthday, so most offices and schools were closed.

As the blizzards swept on toward southern New England, already enduring day after day of bone-numbing cold, a snow emergency was declared in New York.

Cars were barred from parking on selected streets to let snow ploughs through and only vehicles with snow tyres or chains were allowed on the roads.

All three major airports serving New York City—Kennedy International, La Guardia and Newark—were shut down as winds piled up snow on the runways.

Washington's three airports were also closed, but Boston's stayed in use.

The Sanitation Department in New York said that at least 1,100 snow-clearing vehicles would be on the streets, with workers getting extra holiday pay—expected to cost the city more than \$250,000.

The storm originated in New Mexico and moved up through South and North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Forecasters said the worst part of the storm had moved out over the Atlantic.

## Andreotti expected to abandon attempt to form new government

ROME, Feb. 20 (R)—Christian Democratic premier-designate Giulio Andreotti is expected to give up his attempt to form a new government, well-informed sources said yesterday.

His withdrawal would open the way for President Sandro Pertini to ask a political leader of another party, probably Republican Party President Ugo La Malfa, to try to solve the 19-day-old government crisis.

But the sources said there was virtually no room for manoeuvre since the second-place Communist Party was insisting on being given cabinet posts in a new government and the Christian Democrats were flatly refusing this concession.

The sources said that all the signs pointed to a general election but added that it could be avoided

if the third-ranking Socialist Party would indirectly support a temporary government by abstaining in parliament. The Socialists have previously supported communist demands for representation in a coalition government.

Mr. Andreotti, who has held office since August 1976, was expected to tell President Pertini on Thursday or Friday that he could not form a new government, the sources said.

His move would follow a meeting of the Socialist Party leadership, which is expected to confirm Party Secretary Bettino Craxi's view that Mr. Andreotti's bid has failed.

It was not clear here whether the 75-year-old Mr. La Malfa would accept a request from President Pertini to become the first non-Christian democratic premier

since the establishment of the Italian republic in 1947.

The sources said that in view of the firm positions of the Christian Democrats and communists, Mr. La Malfa was not likely to be able to form a cabinet.

President Pertini might then ask Mr. Andreotti or Christian Democratic Party President Flaminio Piccoli to try to form a new government, the alternative being a general election, the sources said.

Their only hope of success would be a decision by the Socialist Party to abstain during a vote of confidence for Mr. Andreotti's present minority Christian democratic government or a new Piccoli cabinet including smaller parties.

The sources said the Socialists might decide to take this action to prevent early general elections before the scheduled European Parliament election in June.

The Socialists are hoping to score gains over the communists in the June election by campaigning as representatives of the non-communist European left with the help of West European socialist leaders.

## AFL-CIO attacks Carter's policies

BAL HARBOUR, Florida, Feb. 20 (R)—President Carter's economic and foreign policies came under fire yesterday from the United States' main trade union body.

The executive of the American Federation of Labour, Congress of Industrial Organisations (AFL-CIO) is holding its annual winter meeting here and its president, George Meany, has often been at odds with the Carter administration.

A statement issued by the executive said Mr. Carter's anti-inflation programme would not succeed, and increases in the federal budget would lead to a renewed risk of recession.

At a press conference, Mr. Meany also hit out at President Carter's attitude towards events in Iran. He said the administration had been too quick to recognise the new government set up by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and instead should have adopted a "wait and see" attitude.

Mr. Meany asked to evaluate Mr. Carter's foreign policy, said: "I don't know what his foreign policy is. Our foreign policy seems to be that we react to events. Something happens and then we have something to say about it."

Mr. Meany proposed that America should try to base its future on oil supplies other than those from Iran. He added: "I don't think we can depend on Khomeini and what may happen after Khomeini."

## World News Briefs

### Saboteurs bomb Swiss nuclear power station

KAISERAUGST, Switzerland, Feb. 20 (R)—A bomb blast at a building at a Swiss nuclear power station yesterday, after Swiss voters narrowly rejected an environmentalist campaign that would have effectively halted the government's nuclear expansion programme. Police said a two-storey industrial building at Kaiseraugst power station caught fire after the explosion. Estimated damage at more than \$600,000 but no one was hurt. Kaiseraugst, near Basle, where Switzerland's first nuclear station is being built, has been the target of anti-nuclear demonstrators for four years. Police said the saboteurs had posted notices near the pavilion and had alerted police before the early yesterday morning. In a national referendum, citizens voted a proposal by environmentalists for stricter controls on existing planned nuclear power installations—but only by a narrow margin.

### Trains rolling again between Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan, Feb. 20 (R)—Train services between Quetta and Iran, suspended for about two months following the seizure of the railway by Iranian forces, have resumed. A train from Iran was due to arrive here today while a Pakistani train left Quetta for Iran on Feb. 22.

### Wealthy Duke of Westminster dies at 68

BELFAST, Feb. 20 (R)—The Duke of Westminster, head of Britain's richest families, died at his home in Northern Ireland. He was 68. He once controlled a £500 million estate, which included large areas of the exclusive Mayfair and Belgrave districts in London. But the duke several years ago handed over control of the estate to his son, 27-year-old Earl Grosvenor, who succeeded to the title. The Westminster estates also include thousands of acres of farmland in England, Scotland and Wales, industrial and shopping centres in Canada, property in Hawaii and a share in Australia. The duke was taken ill with asthma shortly before his wedding of his son last October and later had a heart attack in the intensive care unit of the Westminster Hospital in London days ago and returned to his Ely Lodge home near Enniskerry, County Fermanagh, where he died.

### Argentina adds big banknotes to currency

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 20 (R)—Banknotes worth 50,000 (\$46)—five times the existing biggest denomination—came into circulation yesterday in Argentina, which has the highest rate of inflation in the world. The cost of living rose by 169.8 per cent last month.

### U.K. abandons case against art impostor

LONDON, Feb. 20 (R)—The trial of Tom Keating, an obscure who admits flooding the British market with 2,000 fake paintings over the past 25 years, was abandoned yesterday and the man missed. The court cited ill-health of the 61-year-old artist in doing the month-old trial and fixed no date for possible re-trial. Keating and co-defendant Lionel Evans, 45, were allowed to go on bail. Mr. Keating and Mr. Evans had pleaded not guilty to a charge of criminal deception. Mr. Keating, who was arrested in June 1976, admitted faking old masters but denied deceiving clients. He said he never hoped to make money from the fakes and wanted to expose what he called the phoniness of the art world. The prosecution alleged that between 1968 and 1971, Mr. Keating conspired to perpetrate six art frauds earning over £20,000 in the fakes.

### Sri Lankans asked to cut use of electricity

COLOMBO, Feb. 20 (R)—The Sri Lankan Government has asked people to cut down on the use of electricity because of an impending power crisis. The interruption of crude oil supplies from Sri Lanka's main supplier, had been aggravated by a drought in the feeding the reservoirs of the main hydro-electric plant in the hill country, the government said. Two Sri Lankan ministers been sent to Middle East countries to negotiate for oil supply.

### BNP wins majority in Bangladesh parliament

DACCA, Feb. 20 (R)—President Ziaur Rahman's Bangla National Party (BNP) won an absolute majority of 203 seats in new 300-member parliament when the final results were announced today. The most successful among the 30 opposition parties testing the first general election since the 1975 coup, which ousted General Zia to power, was the Awami League of former Prime Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It won 40 seats. Mr. Mujib himself killed in the coup but his pictures were prominently used in the league's campaigning. The right-wing Moslem League Democratic League Alliance won 19 seats and the Independent Democratic League won 19 seats and the Independent Democratic League won 19 seats and the Independent Democratic League won 19 seats. The remaining went to minor parties. All ministers in General Zia's government were returned with big majorities. "We have a definitive step for the return of democratic order," the Bangladesh Times said in an editorial today. President Zia told a press conference last night he would keep to his promise to lift martial law and after the inauguration of the new parliament next month. Asked would give up his position as commander of the army and be a civilian leader, he replied: "You must wait and see."

### New Greek divorce law won't please everyone

ATHENS, Feb. 20 (R)—The Greek Government yesterday issued a new law under which couples separated for more than a year can obtain divorce, even if one partner is unwilling. It will take effect on March 1, has already been attacked by Greek Orthodox Church as going against the Bible and social principles. The new statute, published in the government Gazette yesterday, says a petition for divorce could be filed by either regardless of the reasons for the separation. Thousands of Greek couples forced to stay married under existing state law which does not allow divorce unless both sides agree. People seeking divorce had groups throughout the country and threatened to go on hunger strike if the government failed to go ahead with proposals for change.

### U.N. begins month-long self-examination

GENEVA, Feb. 20 (R)—Forty-seven member countries of United Nations yesterday began a month-long review of the body's work in an effort to make it more effective. In particular, the panel is examining the U.N. charter, listing and studying proposals made by members on the peaceful settlement of disputes and maintenance of international peace and security. The panel, set up in 1975, will report to the General Assembly starting next September. The European offices of the U.N. in Geneva last year staged 8,711 meetings—more than U.N. headquarters in New York and 10 per cent increase since the early 1970's, according to U.N. officials.

### China plans better quality consumer items

HONG KONG, Feb. 20 (R)—China is to produce a new range of consumer items from quartz watches to automatic washing machines in an effort to combat the poor quality of many goods, the New News Agency said today. There were plans to produce about 10 new lines of consumer goods in the next two years, the agency added and that factories would be restructured, and selected production lines, machines and technical patterns introduced abroad. The agency gave details of a recent Ministry of Light Industry conference in Shanghai and said: "Nothing consumer satisfaction with old designs and poor quality of many goods at the conference declared such backwardness no longer acceptable."

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